



MUSC Health

D.B.A.

*The Claude W Smith, MD
School of Cardiovascular Technology
Application Information For The
2026-2027
Program*

Thank you for your interest in the Claude W. Smith M.D. School of Cardiovascular Technology at MUSC Health in Columbia, S.C. Our program awards a certificate in Echocardiography and Vascular Sonography or Invasive Cardiovascular Technology. Graduates are eligible to sit for the ARDMS exam(s) in these specialties or the CCI exam(s) in their respected specialty.

****Please note that we are NOT affiliated with the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C.****

ADMISSIONS POLICY

The following criteria have been established to screen applicants for the cardiovascular ultrasound program offered by MUSC Health. This policy is instituted in an attempt to offer a fair and equitable selection process that will support the mission statement of MUSC Health and ensure success of the selected students. This policy is intended to be fair, forthright, and meet the growing demands of acceptance into the Claude W Smith MD, School of Cardiovascular Technology.

Applications are accepted from November 1st through January 9th of each calendar year for the August start date. All application requirements must be received by the application deadline to include:

Application submitted by mail or email. If submitting digitally please save application as Last name, First name Application. Ex) **Doe, John Application**

Official Sealed Transcripts from all institutions that showcase required prerequisites. Program must receive transcripts directly from colleges or companies such as Parchment by mail or email.

Application fee is a forty-dollar, non-refundable check or money order that must be made out to **MUSC - Columbia Medical Center** with memo line containing **applicant name -app fee** and mailed or brought in person.

Please note: Incomplete or late applications will not be processed.

MUSC Laurel Street Pavilion
The Claude W. Smith MD
School of CVT
2001 Laurel St.
Columbia, SC 29204

Or by email to: doughema@musc.edu

If you have any additional questions, contact the admission coordinator, Mary Dougherty directly at 803-256-5627.

All prerequisite courses must be completed or in progress at the close of the application period. All prerequisites must have been completed within ten years to the program start date. For example, prerequisites for the August 2023 start date must have a completion dated after August 2013 to be considered.

Course prerequisites:

30 credit hours of post-high school education (post high school educational classes must include the following five classes):

- (Human) Anatomy and Physiology I and lab (4 credits)
- (Human) Anatomy and Physiology II and lab (4 credits)
- Medical Terminology
- College Algebra or higher
- English Composition
- A minimum overall **GPA of 2.5** is required for the candidate to be considered for admission.

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for a clinical 'shadowing' experience for their selected program(s) of interest. This opportunity will provide first-hand insight into the fields of Cardiovascular Sonography and Invasive Cardiovascular Technology. This is an opportunity to meet the instructors and staff, visit the classroom, and ask questions concerning the program. *Shadows days require completing a Career Exploration Application which requires up to date immunization records. The Admission's Coordinator will reach out to each qualified applicant after completed application and transcripts are received.*

Once all pertinent documents are received, an application committee will review and evaluate the applications. Due to the high volume of applications, and the limited number of students that will be accepted, the committee will put forward only the candidates that will be offered an invitation to be interviewed for acceptance. These interviews will take place in April and/or May of each year, date(s) to be determined.

There is no 'automatic' acceptance into the program. All applications put forward by the applications committee will be considered. Final selections will be based on the application documents and candidate interview.

Tuition Policy

Please note: Tuition costs and fees are subject to change without notice.

Current tuition for these seventeen-month cardiovascular technology programs is set at \$24,000. This charge covers tuition only and is subject to change without notice. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required upon acceptance and another \$500 deposit before August 1st and will be applied towards the total cost of tuition. The balance of the tuition can be paid in monthly payments, first payment due on August 15th, with no interest charged.

For more payment information, contact Mary Dougherty.

Additional Program Costs

The student is responsible for the costs of these items, as they are not included in the price of tuition. Estimated costs for these items are as follows:

Laptop with camera - variable

Textbooks – approximately \$300-\$450 (used books are acceptable)

Online Clinical Documentation Account - \$150

Scrubs - variable

Liability insurance – approximately \$40

Clinical site fees \$200 site dependent

Radiation Badges (Invasive Program only) - \$135

Lead Glasses (Invasive Program only) - \$80-\$200

Registry Exam fee(s) – currently \$225-\$550

Clinical travel and/or lodging - variable

Refund Policy

A tuition refund will be prorated according to time of withdrawal or termination up to one year from the time of enrollment in accordance to the refund policy. After twelve months, no refund will be provided.

Transfer of Credits

We do not accept or recognize credits or course work from any other cardiovascular program toward the requirements of certification.

Application for Admission

Application for: Invasive Cardiovascular Program

Cardiovascular Sonography Program

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Address: _____ Apt. No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Number: (____) - _____ Evening Number: (____) - _____

E-mail address: _____

Colleges/Universities Attended

Dates

Degree Earned

Work Experience (please include dates)

Contact Person

Contact Number

How did you hear about our program?

We consider all applicants for admission without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation or any other legally protected status.

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

I certify that the information contained in this application is true. I further understand that falsification of information or incomplete statements herein will result in cancellation of this application. I agree that examination and verification of my employment or previous education, except as it pertains to age, race, gender, sex, color, creed, national origin, marital status or disability, may be made and used relative to my application status. I, therefore, authorize my former employers and other persons or organizations listed to provide this information and I release all concerned from any liability in connection therewith. I further certify that as of the date of the application deadline, I will have graduated from an accredited high school or the equivalent and completed, in good standing, additional course work as listed on this application and/or attachments.

USC-CVT applicant agrees for CWS to contact USC-CVT's advisory team to ensure that their degree requirements have been met to apply.

FAQ's

1. How much does the program cost and what financing is available?

Answer: The current cost of the program is \$24,000. This is for the entire 17- month program. It does not include the costs of the required textbooks, which can be purchased used, or hospital scrubs. Other clinical fees may apply. **The CVT school is not eligible for federal grant or loans. A student in the University of South Carolina CVT program remains enrolled in the university and continues to maintain eligibility for previously approved loans.** After the initial \$ 1,000 down payment, the hospital will allow you to make monthly payments without incurring finance charges.

2. Does the program accept VA benefits?

Answer: Yes, but only for our accredited echo/vascular program. Covered Individuals will need to submit a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to admissions coordinator at least two weeks before the first day of program start date. Provide payment for the amount that is the difference between the amount of the student's financial obligation and the amount of the VA education benefit disbursement. *We do NOT accept Chapter 35.*

3. Do I have to have a college degree or attend the University of South Carolina to enter this program?

Answer: Having a degree is not required, but some college level courses are. A student at the University of South Carolina is encouraged to speak with their counselor about the bachelors in CVT. We are open to all that have academically qualified to apply to the program.

4. Are we a part of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C.?

Answer: No.

5. When do you hold classes? Do you offer classes at night or on weekends?

Answer: The starting dates for each program will be in mid-August of every year and the ending dates will be December after one physical year. Example, a cohort starting in August of 2026 will Graduate December of 2027. Class times and location vary with each program. In class portion of program is not offered nights or weekends.

6. I think your program may be right for me. Am I automatically accepted if I apply?

Answer: We usually receive 30-45 qualified applicants per year which is more than we have room for in our program. We have found the interview process to be the best method to determine how we fill our classes. We understand that many well qualified applicants will not be accepted into the program and currently we have no way to automatically accept all who apply.

7. Are credits transferable?

Answer: Prerequisites may be taken at any accredited college or tech school. The Claude W Smith MD School of Cardiovascular Technology has no educational affiliation with any other accredited or non-accredited program. **As such, we do not accept or recognize credits or course work from any other cardiovascular program towards the requirements of certification.**

8. Are clinical rotations located in Columbia, SC only?

Answer: No, the invasive and non-invasive programs have different clinical requirements.

Non-invasive - Due to limited clinical space in Columbia, some students will need to relocate to different areas. An applicant's program enrollment is based on acceptance of their assigned clinical location. Other locations include Charleston, Florence, Anderson SC, Gainesville GA, and Charlotte NC.

Invasive - Due to limited clinical space in the Columbia area, students will be doing 7-8 week rotations to different areas. Locations include Charleston and Florence.